

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)      A wood chipper comprising:  
  
a movable infeed pan;  
  
at least one assist mount connected to said wood chipper; and  
  
at least one assist member connected to said assist mount and to operatively engage said infeed pan to assist an operator in moving a bulk weight of said infeed pan when said infeed pan is raised to a generally vertical position and lowered to a generally horizontal position by the operator.

2. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)      A wood chipper as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one assist member comprises a spring.

3. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)      A wood chipper as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one assist mount comprises at least one side member extending from an infeed hopper assembly of said wood chipper.

4. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)      A wood chipper as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one assist mount further comprises a support member extending from said at least one side member, said at least one assist member being connected to said at least one support member.

5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)      A wood chipper comprising:  
  
a movable infeed pan;

at least one spring mount connected to said wood chipper; and

at least one spring connected to said spring mount and to operatively engage said infeed pan to assist an operator in moving a bulk weight of said infeed pan when said infeed pan is raised to a generally vertical position and lowered to a generally horizontal position by the operator.

6. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least one spring is a coil spring.

7. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least one spring has a first end extending outwardly and a second end extending outwardly to form a general "L" shape.

8. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 7 wherein said at least one spring has a plurality of coils disposed between said first end and said second end.

9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 7 wherein said second end is longer than said first end, said second end being adapted to operatively engage said infeed pan.

10. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 7 including a spring retainer connected to said infeed pan to space said second end from said infeed pan.

11. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 5 including a plurality of spring mounts spaced laterally and secured to an infeed hopper assembly of said wood chipper.

12. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 11 including a plurality of springs, one of said springs mounted to one of said spring mounts.

13. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 12 wherein one of said spring mounts and one of said springs is located adjacent said infeed pan.

14. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least one spring mount comprises at least one side member extending from an infeed hopper assembly of said wood chipper.

15. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 14 wherein said at least one spring mount further comprises a support member extending from said at least one side member.

16. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 15 wherein said support member is rotatably secured to said at least one side member.

17. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper comprising:  
an infeed hopper;

an infeed pan pivotally connected to said infeed hopper;

at least one assist mount connected to said infeed hopper; and

at least one assist member connected to said at least one assist mount and connected to said infeed pan and connected to said infeed hopper to assist an operator in moving a bulk weight of said infeed pan when said infeed pan is raised to a generally vertical position and lowered to a generally horizontal position by the operator.

18. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one assist member comprises a spring.

19. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 18 wherein said at least one spring has a first end extending outwardly and a second end extending outwardly to form a general "L" shape.

20. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 19 wherein said at least one spring has a plurality of coils disposed between said first end and said second end.

21. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one assist mount comprises at least one side member extending from said infeed hopper.

22. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 21 wherein said at least one assist mount further comprises a support member extending from said at least one side member.

23. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper as set forth in claim 22 wherein said support member is rotatably secured to said at least one side member.

24. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wood chipper comprising:

- an infeed hopper;
- a cutting assembly spaced from said infeed hopper;
- a feed wheel assembly disposed between said infeed hopper and said cutting assembly to feed wood material from said infeed hopper to said cutting assembly;
- an infeed pan pivotally connected to said infeed hopper;
- at least one assist mount connected to said infeed hopper; and
- at least one assist member connected to said at least one assist mount and to operatively engage said infeed pan and to operatively engage said infeed hopper to assist an operator in moving a bulk weight of said infeed pan when said infeed pan is raised to a generally vertical position and lowered to a generally horizontal position by the operator.